and these schemes/guidelines give due weightage to development of backward areas/regions.

Action Proposed Against Bihar for Allowing Private Senas

1150. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the action proposed against the State Government for allowing private armies like "Ranvir Sena" to exist in certain violence-prone districts of Bihar and causing massacres from time to time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): Govt. of Bihar have reported that they have arrested a total of 2319 extremists in 1998, out of which 193 belonged to 'Ranbir Sena'. 21 extremists were killed during encounters in the year 1998 and 419 weapons were recovered from them. During the year 1999, 2584 extremists were arrested, out of which 259 belonged to 'Ranbir Sena'. 21 extremists and 418 arms were recovered from them. This year till March 2000, 260 extremist have been arrested and 13 extremists have been killed in encounters. Action is also taken by the Govt. of Bihar against hard core extremists under National Security Act/Crime Control Act. Special Security Force on the pattern of Greyhounds of Andhra Pradesh are being set up and two India Reserve Battalions have been sanctioned for combating extremist activities.

UT Status for Laddakh

1151. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Laddakh Hill Council has demanded for creation of a separate Union Territory for Laddakh;

(b) if so, whether this demand is the by-product of the feeling of laddakhis in the tasks of development and governance of the J and K wheras the State Government has been treating them in a cavalier fashion;

(c) whether the demand for Union Territory is the outcome of the widespread discontentment in the region over Dr. Farooq Abdullah's proposal for autonomy resolution; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (d) Following the adoption of a Resolution by the J and K State Assembly on 26.6.2000 seeking restoration of pre-1953 status, the Laddakh Autonomous Hill Development Council in its meeting held on 30.6.2000 has passed a resolution demanding complete separation of Laddakh from J and K State in the form of a Union Territory.

Demand for separate Tamil Nation

1152. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference was organised at Erode in Tamil Nadu in which speeches were made for creating a separate Tamil Nation;

(b) if so, what deliberations were made in the conference and what is the outcome of the conference; and

(c) whether he himself participated in the said conference in which the photograph of the LTTE leader Prabhakaran was prominently displayed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) As per available information, speeches regarding creation of a separate Tamil Nation in India were not made in the Conference at Erode which was aimed to mark solidarity with the plight of Sri Lankan Tamils. There is no report indicating that the photograph of the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran, was prominently displayed at the venue of the Conference in which Hon'ble Home Minister also participated.

Rape Cases in Delhi

1153. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of rape cases reported in the National Capital Territory of Delhi during the current year;

(b) how many of the victims are foreigners who have not only been raped but also cheated; and

(c) whether the culprits in all the cases have been arrested and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?